



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/

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Contact: Alec Lloyd
517-373-1619

Cassis student safety bill signed into law

LANSING – Gov. Jennifer Granholm has signed legislation by state Sen. Nancy Cassis to enhance the safety of children by keeping felons and dangerous individuals away from schools.

“This legislation offers parents peace of mind and enhances student safety,” said Cassis, R-
Novi, vice-chair of the Senate Education Committee. “This gives law enforcement more tools to protect our schools.”

Senate Bill 616 is a key provision of the Student Safety Initiative. The multi-bill package prohibits sex offenders from residing, loitering or working within 1,000 feet of a school. It also revokes teaching certifications for convicted sex offenders and requires background checks on all paid school and day-care center employees. Anyone with a sex offense is prohibited from being employed in a school or day-care center.

Cassis’ portion sets sentencing guidelines. The first violation is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of up to one year and/or a maximum fine of \$1,000. Second and subsequent offenses are felonies punishable by imprisonment of up to two years and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000.

The measure also establishes additional penalties for sex offenders failing to update their entry on the online registry.

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